

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01779 080922Z

10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /109 W

----- 033134

R 080720Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6926

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SU

SUBJ: NIMEIRI'S FIRESIDE CHAT II

REF: KHARTOUM 1553

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S SECOND MONTHLY TALK TO COUNTRY DEALT WITH THREE QUESTIONS: (A) CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT; (B) ALLEGATIONS THAT KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY IS ISOLATED ISLAND WHERE COMMUNISTS RUNNING FREE; AND (C) JUSTIFICATION FOR DEFENSE BUDGET IN WAKE SOUTHER SETTLEMENT. MAIN THRUST OF PRES RESPONSE WAS ATTACK ON COMMUNISTS THUS CONTINUING PATTERN ESTABLISHED DURING TOUR OF COUNTRY. QUESTION EXISTS WHETHER PRES IN THESE ATTACKS NOT GIVING COMMUNISTS MORE WIEGHT THAN THEY DESERVE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRESIDE CHAT. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ADDRESSED COUNTRY FOR TWO HOURS ON RADIO-TV AUG 6 IN SECOND OF WHAT ARE BILLED AS MONTHLY DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON ANSWERING PEOPLE'S QUESTIONS. PRES NOTED HE HAD RECEIVED MANY INQUIRIES, BUT MOST OF THEM PERSONAL IN NATURE--INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS--RATHER THAN ADDRESSED TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS. WHILE IT WAS LATTER VARIETY HE SOUGHT, NIMEIRI PROMISED TO ESTABLISH SSU COMITE TO FOLLOW-UP ON PERSONAL QUESTIONS AS WELL. HE NOTED LETTERS CAME FROM ABROAD AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT SUDAN AND INCLUDED ONE WHICH STRONGLY BLASTED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KHARTO 01779 080922Z

HIM PERSONALLY. NIMEIRI NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT WRITER HAD

NOT HAD COURAGE TO SIGN HIS ATTACK.

3. THREE QUESTIONS. PRES THEN TURNED TO THREE QUESTIONS WHICH DID FIT HIS CRITERIA: (A) FIRST DEALT WITH QUESTION OF CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT AND REGIME'S ACTIONS. NIMEIRI RESPONDED FORTHRIGHTLY CORRUPTION EXISTED. HE NOTED SUDAN WAS FORTUNATE SINCE CORRUPTION MUCH WORSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. PRES MADE POINT CORRUPTION WAS OUTGROWTH OF PREVIOUS POLITICAL SYSTEM AS WELL AS SOCIAL PROBLEM, INVOLVING QUESTIONS OF CHILDREN'S UPBRINGING, SCHOOLS, ETC. DEALING WITH IT NOT JUST SIMPLE MATTER FOR GOVERNMENT ALONE. HE NOTED THAT CREATION SSU BASIC UNITS IN MINISTRIES, FACTORIES, ETC. WILL PROVIDE REMEDIAL MECHANISM; (B) SECOND QUESTION ASKED IF UNIVERSITY KHARTOUM (U OF K) WAS ISOLATED CENTER WHERE PRIVILEGES AND RIGHTS EXISTED WHICH DENIED REST OF CITIZENS. QUESTION FOCUSED IN PARTICULAR ON COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES AT UNIVERSITY AND SPECIFICALLY ON REPORTS OF COMMUNIST AND MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CELEBRATION AT U OF K OF JULY 19 ANNIVERSARY 1971 COUP ATTEMPT. PRES USED QUESTION AS BASE TO LAUNCH WIDE SWEEPING ATTACK ON COMMUNISTS BOTH PAST AND PRESENT INSIDE AND OUT OF SUDAN. HE DENIED COMMUNIST CHARGES THAT TRIALS FOLLOWING 1971 COUNTER-COUP WERE MASSACRES, CLAIMING INSTEAD SWIFT JUSTICE HAD PREVENTED MASSACRE OF COMMUNISTS BY PEOPLE SUCH AS OCCURRED IN INDONESIA. REGARDING U OF K--BUT WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHAT ACTIONS HE PROPOSED-- NIMEIRI SAID UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT IT IS NOT PRIVILEGED ISLAND-- THAT CONSTITUTION AND LAW APPLY EQUALLY AT U OF K AS WELL AS IN REST OF COUNTRY. (EMB UNDERSTAND FROM U OF K FACULTY MEMBER THAT VICE CHANCELLOR HAS BEEN HARD PRESSED BY GOS, BUT IS DEFENDING PROPOSITION THAT U OF K SHOULD BE OUT OF BOUNDS FOR POLICE IN ORDER AVOID PRECIPITATING STUDENT VIOLENCE.); (C) FINAL QUESTION ASKED WHY DEFENSE BUDGET COULD NOT BE REDUCED SINCE SOUTHERN REBELLION OVER AND EXCESS DIVERTED TO DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES. NIMEIRI'S RESPONSE WAS SOMEWHAT ELLIPTICAL, INVOLVING PRAISE OF SUDANESE ARMED FORCES AND ITS SACRIFICES FOR COUNTRY, BUT INCLUDED CLAIM THAT ARMY DOING MUCH IN WAY OF CIVIC ACTION PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH (CLAIM WHICH WE HAVE NOT HEARD SUBSTANTIATED BY OTHER SOURCES NEARLY TO EXTENT ONE MIGHT WISH).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KHARTO 01779 080922Z

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S FOCUS ON AND PUBLIC ATTENTION TO COMMUNISTS SOMEWHAT CURIOUS. IN MONDAY'S ADDRESS HE NOT ONLY DEALT WITH ISSUE AS RELATED TO U OF K, BUT ALSO WORKED IT INTO OTHER TWO RESPONSES AS WELL, I.E., COMMUNISTS RESPONSIBLE ON ONE HAND FOR EXAGGERATING EXTENT CORRUPTION AND ON OTHER FOR TRYING SOW DISCORD BETWEEN PEOPLE AND ARMY. BASIS OF PRES CONCERN NOT CLEAR. MOST SUDANESE (AS WELL AS OUTSIDE OBSERVERS) INCLUDING THOSE MOST INVOLVED IN

SECURITY ACCEPT THAT COMMUNISTS VERY DISORGANIZED AND WEAK
IN WAKE 1971 FAILURE. PRESIDENT'S EXAGGERATIONS APPEAR TO
BE GIVING COMMUNISTS UNDUE PUBLICITY AND CREATING MORE OF AN
IMAGE OF REAL OPPOSITION TO REGIME THAN SEEMS WARRENTED.
FRITTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KHARTO01779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS FRITTS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730851/aaaablz.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KHARTOUM 1553
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMEIRI'S FIRESIDE CHAT II
TAGS: PINT, SU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005